

Lesson
1

What Is an Adjective?

Teaching

An **adjective** is a word that modifies, or describes, a noun or a pronoun. Adjectives answer the questions *what kind*, *which one*, *how many*, or *how much*.

Adjectives

What kind?	steep trail, green meadow
Which one or ones?	first stream
How many or how much?	four hikers, much food

Articles

The most commonly used adjectives are the articles *a*, *an* and *the*. *A* and *an* are **indefinite articles**. They refer to someone or something in general. Use *a* before a word beginning with a consonant or a long “u” sound and *an* before a word beginning with a vowel.

We took a hike in the mountains. A uniformed ranger led us. It was an adventure!

The is the **definite article**. It points out a specific person, place, thing, or idea.

Do you have the map?

Proper Adjectives

Many adjectives are formed from common nouns, such as *sandy* from *sand*.

Proper adjectives are formed from a proper noun. Proper adjectives are always capitalized.

Proper Noun

Proper Adjective

Asia	Asian
Mexico	Mexican

Identifying Adjectives

Underline all the adjectives in each sentence, including the articles.

1. A friend and I recently took a trip to the Swiss Alps.
2. We saw beautiful scenery and got great exercise.
3. We carried heavy backpacks with everything we needed.
4. Leigha brought a nylon tent, while I had the food.
5. We hiked several miles each day, usually to the farthest campsite we could reach.
6. We had a good time visiting the oldtime villages along the way.
7. Sometimes we hiked all day to reach the nearest village.
8. We had a wonderful trip with no bad accidents.
9. The biggest challenge we faced was a deep river that we couldn't cross.
10. Once, a case of bad map-reading made us walk five extra miles.
11. When we reached one village, we treated ourselves to a delicious meal.
12. For dessert, we ordered a rich chocolate torte.
13. We loved the peace of the ancient mountains.
14. We will remember the amazing hike for many years.

**Lesson
1****What Is an Adjective?****More Practice****A. Identifying Adjectives and the Words They Modify**

Underline each adjective once and the word it modifies twice. Circle the proper adjectives. Ignore the articles.

1. Two old prospectors and a weary mule trudged across the desert.
2. The loyal fans cheered the team in the final game.
3. The lunch consisted of homemade soup and English muffins.
4. The European guests told interesting stories of the trip.
5. Several silly clowns wore baggy pants.
6. Many American tourists visit sunny Mexican beaches.
7. Antique jewelry got top prices at the auction.
8. A few fine museums in major cities exhibit Greek statues.
9. Floral wallpaper was put up in the front hall.
10. The chef put Italian sausage into the hearty stew.

B. Writing Adjectives

Write an adjective to complete each sentence.

EXAMPLE *My class hiked up a small mountain before we graduated.*

1. At the base there were two paths, and we took the _____ one.
2. We wanted to take a _____ path to the mountain top.
3. There were _____ tree roots and loose rocks along the way.
4. It was pretty easy, though, until we reached a _____ climb.
5. Some of my classmates started to wish we had taken an _____ path instead.
6. We got to see some _____ wildlife, such as squirrels, raccoons, and snakes.
7. At the top, we could probably see for at least _____ miles.
8. The rest on the mountain top gave us a chance to have a _____ lunch.
9. We noticed a _____ raindrops and decided to start heading down.
10. Our _____ foreign exchange student enjoyed spending time with us before she went back to her homeland.

Lesson 1

Application

A. Writing Adjectives in Sentences

Use the word at the beginning of each item as an adjective in a sentence.

EXAMPLE scary *The camp counselor told a scary story.*

1. shiny _____
2. turquoise _____
3. rare _____
4. Asian _____
5. innocent _____
6. rainy _____
7. playful _____
8. easy _____
9. curious _____
10. Japanese _____

B. Writing a Paragraph Using Adjectives

Imagine that you are on an overnight hike in the mountains. How could you describe the scenery you see? What words could describe the people who have come with you on the hike? Write a short paragraph about an overnight hike. Use at least five adjectives in your description. Underline the adjectives in your paragraph.

[illegible]